

REMARKS

THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants amend claims 1, 21 through 27, 32, and 35. Claim amendments are to expedite prosecution of the application. Claim amendments add no new subject matter, and are fully supported throughout the specification and by the drawings and claims as filed. Support and reasoning for the amendments are provided below.

Support for Claim Amendments and Reasons for Amendments

These amendments are made to clarify the claims and to expedite allowance of the present application.

Amended claim 1 includes the phrases “a coating film coating at least part of said surface” and “wherein said coating film comprises particulate particles.”

Support for these phrases can be found throughout the application as filed, for example, on page 25, lines 8-9: “The platform can include at least in part a surface, which is coated at least in part by a coating film.” And for example, on page 16, lines 14-15: ““Particle” refers to a particulate of any shape or size that is appropriate to be provided in a coating film or a polymerizable composition to form a coating film.”

Amended claim 35 includes the phrase “a magnetic element, an electromagnetic element, an acoustic element or a dielectric element on or within said platform, said surface, or said coating film.” Support for this phrase can be found throughout the application as filed, for example, on page 34, lines 21-25:

The platform of the present invention can also include a variety of additional structures, such as a magnetic element, an electromagnetic element, an acoustic element or a dielectric element. Each of these structures can be provided on a platform at a desired location, such as on or within a platform, a surface or a coating film. These structures can be completely buried or partially exposed to the surface of the platform, surface or coating film.

Claims 26 has been amended to include the term “comprise” instead of “comprises” and claim 32 has been amended to include the phrase “said channel structure” instead of “said channel structures” as suggested by the Examiner

CLAIMS ARE DEFINITE UNDER 35USC §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner alleges that claims 1 through 35 are indefinite under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph for being indefinite. The Examiner alleges that claim 1 is vague as to the structural relationship between the surface, coating film, and channel structure. The Examiner also alleges that claim 1 is unclear as to whether the microchip is part of platform or not, and also alleges that a film cannot be composed of a single particle as allegedly recited by the last line of claim 1.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner and submit that the claims are clear and definite under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph as written. However, to expedite allowance of claims, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the phrase “a coating film coating at least part of said surface” and the phrase “wherein said coating film comprises particulate particles.”

Applicants do not understand the rejection with respect to the Examiner’s question as to whether the microchip is part of platform or not. Support for the phrase “wherein said platform comprises a microchip” can be found throughout the application as filed, for example, on page 12, lines 8-9: ““Platform” refers to a structure that includes at least one microchip structure, including a biochip structure.”

The Examiner alleges that claim 35 is vague because it is not clear as to the structural relationship between the magnetic element, the surface, coating film, and channel structure. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner, however, to expedite allowance of claims, Applicants have amended claim 35 to include the phrase “a magnetic element, an electromagnetic element, an acoustic element or a dielectric element on or within said platform, said surface, or said coating film.”

With respect to claim 32, Applicants have amended the claim to include the phrase “said channel structure” instead of “said channel structures” as suggested by the Examiner.

CLAIMS ARE NONOBVIOUS UNDER 35USC §103(A)

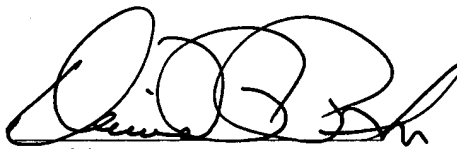
The Examiner alleges that claims 1-35 are unpatentable due to obviousness over Pourahmadi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,440,725) in view of Foster (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,277). Applicants disagree that Pourahmadi et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the coating film comprising a particle. The Applicants also disagree that the teachings of Pourahmadi et al in combination with Foster teach a coating film comprising particles. However, to expedite allowance of claims, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the phrase "wherein said coating film comprises particulate particles" Neither Pourahmadi et al nor Foster disclose, suggest, or provide motivation for a coating film which comprises particulate particles. Thus, amended claim 1, and dependent claims 2 through 35 are nonobvious over the disclosure of Pourahmadi et al. in view of Foster, and Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be removed.

Applicant respectfully submit that the claims are ready for examination and in condition for allowance. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to **Deposit Account Number 501321** in the name of David R. Preston & Associates, having **Customer Number 24232**.

Respectfully submitted,

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